

OKINAWA MARINE

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JASDF General tours MCAS Futenma, Osprey

Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — Japan Air Self-Defense Force Lt. Gen. Yoshiyuki Sugiyama and several distinguished guests toured the flight line and an MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft static display Jan. 19 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma.

The purpose of the visit was to familiarize Sugiyama and JASDF supporters with MCAS Futenma's role in supporting the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force, and the Ospreys operated by Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW.

“(The visit helps) contribute to good U.S.-Japan relations by showing MCAS Futenma to (supporters) who have various backgrounds and play key roles in their organizations,” said Sugiyama, the commanding general of the JASDF's Southwestern Composite Air Division based out of Naha, Okinawa.

The tour began with a short briefing about the installation's capabilities, which support 1st MAW see **SUGIYAMA** pg 5



Japan Air Self-Defense Force Lt. Gen. Yoshiyuki Sugiyama, center left, receives a briefing about the MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft Jan. 19 at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma from U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Larry G. Brown, left, Col. Brian W. Cavanaugh, center right, and Brig. Gen. Steven R. Rudder. Sugiyama is the commanding general of the JASDF's Southwestern Composite Air Division. Rudder is the commanding general of 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Cavanaugh is the commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st MAW. Brown is the commanding officer of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, MAG-36. Photo by Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran



Mayor Tetsuji Matsumoto and Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson sign a local implementation agreement Jan. 17 at Camp Kinser. Matsumoto is the mayor of Urasoe City. Hudson is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler. Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Case

Japan, US officials sign agreement

Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Case

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP KINSER — Mayor Tetsuji Matsumoto of Urasoe City and Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson, commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D.

Butler, signed a local implementation agreement Jan. 17 at Camp Kinser specifying procedures for the evacuation of Okinawa residents through the installation in the event of a natural disaster.

The procedures allow the installation to open one or more of its gates, granting citizens a route for see **SIGNING** pg 5

Marines establish deployable joint command center

Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP COURTNEY — Marines with 7th Communication Battalion established a deployable joint command and control center Jan. 13-17 on Camp Courtney in preparation for future operations and exercises.

The DJC2 is a standardized, rapidly deployable, scalable, and reconfigurable joint command and control and collaboration combat operations center system for use by combatant commanders and component commands, according to the Naval Surface Warfare Center, Panama City Division, Naval Sea Systems Command.

The DJC2 used during the recent training event is the only one used by the Marine Corps operational forces, according to Capt. James M. Ploski, the commanding officer of see **DJC2** pg 5

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SUPER BOWL XLVIII

Cpl. Nicolas R. Gunton

Defense wins championships. Maybe I should just stop there. If the saying holds true, this year's Super Bowl is already a foregone conclusion.

The Seattle Seahawks boast the top defense in the National Football League in both points and total yards allowed. Three of Seattle's four starters in the defensive backfield made the Pro Bowl. While Seattle has dominated on defense, their offense has proven itself as well.

Featuring the NFL's leading rusher in Marshawn Lynch, and a young, exceptional Pro Bowl quarterback in Russell Wilson, Seattle deserves to be recognized as the most complete team in the NFL.

As most teams in the league have found, stopping even one aspect of the offense is difficult. But stopping both while overcoming the Seahawks' "Legion of Boom" defense is asking for too much.

Peyton Manning wants you to think he is up to the task and can put up the same numbers he averaged in the regular season. Broncos' head coach John Fox wants you to fall for the idea that his team can stop Lynch and the Seahawks from running them out of MetLife Stadium. Unfortunately for them, the reality is that Seattle is unlike any team they faced this season.

The Seahawks have the best secondary in the NFL to cover Peyton Manning's receivers. The so-called "flutterballs" that Manning has become notorious for in cold weather games will no longer be benign incompletions. They will be intercepted by a secondary with more takeaways than any other team.

While the great battle will be waged with Denver on offense and Seattle on defense, the weakest link in the Super Bowl showdown resides with the Denver defense. Denver is ranked 19th in yards allowed and 11th in points allowed. Their defense has zero Pro Bowl selections and will be missing top players Vonn Miller and Chris Harris to injuries. The Broncos will have no way to stop the Seahawks' balanced attack.

In the NFL, defense wins championships and teams lacking defense do not.

Gunton is a military policeman with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion, III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.



Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

The Denver Broncos are easily the best team in the NFL this year. With a revived Peyton Manning and an all-star cast of offensive weapons, the only way to beat them is by keeping pace with their high-powered offense point-for-point coupled with sheer luck.

But who are they facing? The Seattle Seahawks. The who? A team whose first and only Super Bowl appearance was the '05-'06 season since their inception in 1976! They then floundered for almost a decade before being able to play in the "big game" again.

Helmed by a second-year, inexperienced quarterback, the Seahawks are looking to slow down one of the most meticulous quarterbacks to play the game.

Manning's arsenal consists of two halfbacks rushing for more than 4 yards per carry and four wide receivers with more than 10 touchdown receptions each, two of those receivers have more than 1,000 yards on the year. Peyton is throwing for an average of 330 yards per game with a 55-10 touchdown-to-interception ratio.

The Seahawk defense, although formidable, has only seen two high-end, seasoned quarterbacks this season in the Atlanta Falcons' Matt Ryan and the New Orleans Saints' Drew Brees. With Ryan experiencing one of the worst seasons of his career.

They have yet to face a quarterback at a caliber even close to Manning. His decision-making skills and experience are far superior to those of Colin Kaepernick, so do not expect the same level of play or ridiculous postgame antics from the Seattle defense.

For the Russell Wilson fanatics, good luck. Denver will take control of this game early, and Wilson will not be able to keep up. The Seahawks' emotional defense will crumble against a veteran quarterback as he picks them apart.

Himes is a combat correspondent for the Okinawa Marine newspaper.

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AROUND THE CORPS



Lance Cpl. Brandon Wilson reaches for the ledge of an HH-46E Sea Knight helicopter during a training exercise Jan. 9 off the coast of North Carolina. The Marines executed rescue swimmer missions to maintain crew readiness. Wilson is a search and rescue swimmer with Marine Transport Squadron 1, Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron, Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Joshua R. Heins

Marines execute proper techniques to clear a stairway during an urban operations exercise Jan. 9 at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton, Calif. Each building is designed differently to offer the unpredictable layout that Marines would normally experience in urban terrain. The rooms are filled with distracting elements including holes in the walls, open ceilings and multiple doorways. The Marines are with 1st Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division, I Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Lance Cpl. Christopher J. Moore



OKINAWA MARINE

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Camp Hansen
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SOUTHERN BUREAU
Camp Kinser
DSN 637-1092



Winner, 2012 DoD Thomas Jefferson Award
Best Tabloid Format Newspaper

SMART clinic provides vital treatment to injured Marines

Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP HANSEN — The newly renovated Sports Medicine and Reconditioning Team clinic opened its doors Jan. 13 on Camp Hansen.

The clinic makes the treatment of musculoskeletal injuries less travel intensive for residents of Marine Corps installations located on the northern half of Okinawa.

“The SMART clinic represents a new approach to treatment aimed at taking care of musculoskeletal injuries more easily accessible,” said Col. Lance A. McDaniel, the commanding officer of 12th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “(The clinic) applies the same standards and practices available to professional sports teams to active-duty service members.”

A SMART clinic is intended to give the Marines and sailors the care and rehabilitation they require to make a full recovery before a problem becomes worse, according to McDaniel.

“The goal is early coordinated care from primary care providers, sports medicine physicians, athletic trainers and other related specialists, without the delays of the traditional problem, diagnosis, referral and consultation model of care,” said McDaniel.

The lifestyle of active-duty personnel is rigorous, and physical injuries may occur due to any number of activities, according to Petty Officer 3rd Class Dan A. Aglibot, a corpsman with Headquarters Battery, 12th Marines, 3rd Marine Division, III MEF.

“Marines get injured all the time from

their strenuous (physical activity) and training, which makes an impact on a unit’s readiness,” said Aglibot. “By having a SMART clinic on Camp Hansen, it makes it easier to treat the injured Marines and get them back to full duty and have the unit operating at full strength sooner.”

When a Marine or sailor is sidelined due to injury, it may affect mission readiness and the ability of the Marine or sailor to complete the demanding tasks required of them, according to McDaniel.

“Injuries detract from combat readiness and the quality of life for our Marine athletes,” said McDaniel. “Like professional sports teams, we want our athletes to spend minimal time on the disabled list and to be ready on game day.”

The SMART clinic on Camp Hansen used to be open only a couple of days a week in the mornings, according to Aglibot. This increased the time an injured Marine or sailor would be away from their appointed place of duty should they need to travel to the Camp Foster clinic for treatment.

“By increasing our staff we are now able to be open all week, which helps alleviate scheduling and transportation issues,” said Aglibot.

The clinic and unit commanders believe that with physical health care readily available, more serious injuries can be avoided, according to McDaniel. The clinic is just another way to keep the Marines and sailors safe and healthy and the fighting forces strong.

“The end results are stronger and more resilient Marines, fewer lost training days, and higher combat readiness,” said McDaniel.

BRIEFS

CAMP FOSTER TAX CENTER OPENS

The Camp Foster Tax Center will open Feb. 4 at 8 a.m. in Bldg. 5960 (same as the Military Clothing Store).

Returns will not be prepared prior to opening date, and the tax center is not taking appointment requests at this time.

For more information and updates, contact <http://www.mcbbutler.marines.mil/BaseInformation/LegalAssistance/TAXCENTER.aspx>.

ID SCANNING AT COMMISSARIES

Commissaries on Okinawa will now be scanning Department of Defense ID cards with every purchase.

This is part of a new DoD policy and encompasses all service branches.

When your DoD ID is scanned no personal information will be collected. Only individuals with a valid DoD ID will be authorized to make purchases.

CONSTRUCTION ON EXPRESSWAY

Maintenance work is ongoing between Okinawa Expressway Yaka (Exit 7) and Kin (Exit 8) interchanges through March 31.

A section of the highway will have reduced lanes and no center divider. Traffic congestion is expected during peak commuting hours and major events.

NEGATIVE SCHOOL LUNCH ACCOUNTS MAY PROMPT COMMANDER NOTIFICATION

In an effort to continue offering school lunch services, the Exchange School Meal Program must notify commanders regarding personnel in their units with delinquent school lunch accounts in excess of \$50 as of Jan. 14, 2014.

Complete account balance information is available at www.MyPaymentsPlus.com. Funds can be added at participating post and base exchange customer service locations, the school cafeteria or through www.MyPaymentsPlus.com.

For more information about the Exchange School Meal Program, visit www.ShopMyExchange.com/Community/SchoolLunch/ or contact Craig Masek, Region Food Program specialist at DSN 645-6380 or email MasekCr@aafes.com.

TO SUBMIT A BRIEF, send an email to okinawamarine.mcbb.fct@usmc.mil. The deadline for submitting a brief is noon Wednesday. Okinawa Marine reserves the right to edit all submitted material.

Squad competition increases cohesion



Marines quickly move to their first event during a squad competition Jan. 11 at Camp Hansen. Nine squads competed in events designed to test physical endurance, hand-to-hand combat, teamwork and military knowledge. The competition also built morale and cohesion throughout the squads. The Marines are with Company E, Battalion Landing Team 2nd Battalion, 5th Marines, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit.

Photo by Cpl. Henry Antenor



Capt. Carl E. McCrory briefs students from Soka University of America during an MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft static display Jan. 16 at the Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262 hangar at Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. During the visit, the students asked questions about U.S.-Japan military and government relations to facilitate an understanding from personal experience. McCrory is a pilot with Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Photo by Cpl. Terry Brady

International students tour Futenma, expand academic understanding

Cpl. Terry Brady

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION FUTENMA — International students with Soka University of America toured Marine Corps Air Station Futenma Jan. 16 to develop a better understanding of the force laydown of U.S. installations on Okinawa and the U.S.-Japan security alliance.

The trip was part of an intensive “learning cluster” of coursework under the direction of Jay M. Heffron, a history professor and dean of students at the university.

“The students were able to learn a lot about the military bases across Okinawa,” said Heffron. “The visit helped the students learn about the military without being influenced by resources in the U.S., which may not give an unbiased opinion.”

During the visit, the students were able to meet with military and civilian personnel who answered questions regarding U.S. service members’ interaction with their Japan Self-Defense Force counterparts and local community.

“Aside from (building) relations and coordination with the community, the U.S. forces support the host nation (Japan) by facilitating relations with other nations and forces to participate in exercises across the Asia-Pacific region,” said Robert D. Eldridge, the deputy assistant chief of staff for G-7, government and external affairs, Marine Corps Installations Pacific. “The U.S. provides a bridge for Japan, so that involvements in exercises such as Cobra Gold (in Thailand) are possible.”

The students asked questions about potential

restructuring of Japan’s policies and constitution and their effects on U.S. efforts with the JSDF in the Asia-Pacific region.

“(The JSDF) is working to become more like the Marine Corps by improving their amphibious efforts and quicker decision-making and response efforts,” said Eldridge. “Being able to participate in exercises through the support of the U.S. military allows them to strengthen their forces.”

The students viewed a static display of the MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft, so they could learn about its missions and capabilities.

“The briefings discussed the Osprey and how it was used in support (of the humanitarian effort) in the Philippines,” said Duyen Pham, a student at Soka University of America. “We gained a lot more respect and understanding for the Osprey pilots.”

At the end of the visit, many of the students expressed revised opinions, compared to those they held before the tour.

“The whole experience was overwhelming and eye-opening,” said Nicole Inamine, a student at the university. “It gave us an unbiased perspective, which is what we were looking for.”

The students are interested in the well-being and positive progression of humanity, and understand the importance of military involvement in accomplishing this goal, according to Heffron.

“Issues that are important to us are important to the military as well,” said Heffron. “By learning about something upfront, it helps understand the situation in Okinawa.”

Marines, sailors head to Republic of Korea for bilateral training

Sgt. Anthony J. Kirby

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

CAMP FOSTER — Marines and sailors with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, deployed Jan. 14 to Pyeongchang Training Area near Camp Mujuk located in Pohang, Republic of Korea, to participate in Korean Marine Exchange Program 14-2.

KMEP is a regularly scheduled combined training exercise that increases the combat readiness and interoperability between the Republic of Korea and U.S. Marine Corps forces, and is designed to promote stability on the Korean Peninsula, enhance the alliance between the two nations, and strengthen ROK-U.S. military capabilities.

Company F is currently assigned to 4th Marine Regiment, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force, under the unit deployment program, and will remain in Korea until mid-spring.

“It’s going to be good training to get them out of their comfort zone,” said 1st Sgt. Jody G. Armentrout, the first sergeant for the company. “They’ll have to interact with a different culture and adjust to how the ROK Marines work.”

Throughout KMEP 14-2, the company will conduct field-training exercises designed to enhance small-unit tactics in the field with 2nd Reconnaissance Battalion, ROK Marine Corps.

The ROK Marines with 2nd Recon Bn. will instruct the U.S. Marines on how to integrate skiing as an efficient method of travel in a tactical environment, and conduct basic combat-skiing techniques.

The transition from operating primarily in a desert environment to training in the snows of Korea will serve as both a challenge and a benefit for the U.S. Marines and the completion of their mission in the Asia-Pacific region, according to Capt. Redmond B. Gautier IV, an infantry officer with the battalion.

The two allies will also exchange knowledge concerning winter survival skills, as well as execute professional military education concerning each service’s equipment and history.

“The company did mountain training nearly a year ago, but getting back to it with colder temperatures and the added element of snow, will be a change,” said Capt. Thomas W. Morrow, the commanding officer of Company F. “We’ll be directly partnered with the ROK Marines. So we’re going to live, eat and train with them every hour of the day.”

The culminating training event is scheduled to be a four-day patrolling exercise where U.S. Marines will employ their tactics against ROK Marines.

“I want us to become proficient in our cold weather mountain operations,” said Morrow. “By partnering with a foreign unit, and effectively training and communicating with them, (we) will help our Marines understand that it’s not always just a U.S. Marine Corps operation. We partner with a lot of allied nations to build a stronger team.”

SUGIYAMA from pg 1

operations, followed by a windshield tour of the air station and flight line. After a briefing on the operational capabilities of the Osprey, the visitors were able to tour a static display of the aircraft.

As the JASDF awaits its order of Ospreys over the next five years, visits like this are essential in bolstering confidence in the Osprey's capabilities, according to U.S. Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Steven R. Rudder, commanding general of 1st MAW.

"What the general wanted to do was connect what we do on Okinawa, in particular here on MCAS Futenma, with some of Japan's industry leaders and really expose them to not only the aircraft, the MV-22, but also to the mission," said Rudder. "The mission of the Marine Corps in the Pacific is to support the U.S. and Japan alliance by providing for the mutual defense, security and humanitarian (aid)/disaster relief efforts of Japan and our Pacific allies."

The Osprey would be a great advantage in regard to humanitarian efforts in Japan, according to Sugiyama.

"The high performance of the Osprey should be suitable for humanitarian (aid)/disaster relief operations," said Sugiyama. "The Osprey would play an important role in case of not only natural disasters, but also emergency patient transportation from remote islands."

The Osprey is capable of carrying approximately 20,000 pounds of internal cargo or 15,000 pounds externally, at about twice the speed of an average rotary-wing aircraft and can travel farther distances.

As the JASDF readies for its next steps in



Japan Air Self-Defense Lt. Gen. Yoshiyuki Sugiyama, center right, discusses the capabilities of the MV-22B Osprey tiltrotor aircraft Jan. 19 with U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Col. Larry G. Brown, center left, and U.S. Marine Corps Col. Brain W. Cavanaugh, right, during a visit to Marine Corps Air Station Futenma. Sugiyama is the commanding general of the JASDF's Southwestern Composite Air Division. Cavanaugh is the commanding officer of Marine Aircraft Group 36, 1st Marine Aircraft Wing, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Brown is the commanding officer of Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 262, MAG-36. Photo by Cpl. Natalie M. Rostran

aviation, the Marines and sailors with 1st MAW will maintain the strong military alliance and partnership while showcasing how the Osprey will support operations and efforts in the Pacific, according to Rudder.

"We're going to continue to operate the Osprey

in the same manner we have," said Rudder. "Operation Damayan was just one example of what this aircraft brings to the Pacific. As we enter the New Year, we are going to continue to extend the reach, try new things, and stay cognizant of our alliances around the Pacific."



Mayor Tetsuji Matsumoto and Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson shake hands and exchange documents after signing a local implementation agreement Jan. 17 at Camp Kinser. Matsumoto is the mayor of Urasoe City and Maj. Gen. Charles L. Hudson is the commanding general of Marine Corps Installations Pacific and Marine Corps Base Camp Smedley D. Butler.

Photo by Lance Cpl. Elizabeth Case

SIGNING from pg 1

immediate and direct passage to higher ground or shelter immediately before, during or following a natural disaster.

"It's my pleasure to sign the local implementation agreement for limited disaster preparedness/response access to U.S. Forces, Japan facilities and areas today," said Matsumoto. "Following the Great East Japan Earthquake, residents highly appreciate this agreement, which offers Minatogawa-Sakibaru district and Irijima district the best tsunami response measures."

This agreement is the fifth of its kind between Okinawa officials and Marine Corps leaders and is an important way to ensure the mutual safety of the citizens of Okinawa and the personnel

stationed on U.S. installations.

"Disaster preparedness is critical to safeguarding lives and to quickly recovering from the impacts of a natural disaster," said Hudson. "The Marine Corps is committed to doing everything we can to be prepared to respond in the event of such a crisis. By treaty we are allies, but by choice we are partners, friends and neighbors. This agreement serves to reinforce our commitment to our friends and neighbors of Urasoe City."

The signing was also attended by representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Okinawa Defense Bureau, and U.S. Consul General Al Magleby, and is another step in preparing the two communities for a successful, unified response to future natural disasters.

DJC2 from pg 1

Company B, 7th Comm. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. It is intended to be fielded by the commander of the U.S. Pacific Command.

"This (COC) comes with everything already preconfigured," said Ploski. "All the essential equipment is organic; from desks and chairs, to computers and phones. It's fairly self-contained. It takes 34 Marines only 96 hours to set up from bare ground to complete readiness."

The Marines tasked with the construction and operation of the DJC2 found that it was easy to operate and could see numerous benefits for its use, according to Lance Cpl. Janet L. Ramos, a data network specialist with the battalion.

"It's essentially plug-and-play," said Ramos "Once it's set up we can basically get to work. Its flexibility is what makes it unique. It can work with four major data networks (including) secure and commercial (networks)."

Another unique aspect of the DJC2 is that it operates via its own power sources thanks to generators, according to Ploski. In addition, it has its environmental controls for employment in any climate. The system can also be connected to external sources if the need arises.

"Everything is here," said Ploski. "Its rapid nature allows us to deploy and employ anywhere."

The Marines' DJC2 can use two satellite terminals to pull and send information from both U.S. government and commercial satellites to provide reliable connectivity, according to Ramos.

The preconfigured systems within the DJC2 also make it easier to establish and use rather than commandeering an existing building or establishment, according to Lance Cpl. Christopher F. Smith, a wireman with 7th Comm. Bn.

"Sometimes, it's difficult to get set up in a building, but with the (DJC2) we know exactly where everything is going to go and how it's going to be set up each time," said Smith. "It saves us a lot of time, especially if we have to do everything on the fly."

As the Marines train with the DJC2, their proficiency increases with each setup, according to Lance Cpl. Shane M. Gates, a technical controller with the battalion. It gives them more confidence to execute the setup should a crisis arise.

"It gets easier after each time," said Gates. "We'll be able to respond to humanitarian aid and disaster relief efforts even more quickly."



Sgt. Orrin G. Sanford observes the flight line out the side door of a UH-1Y Huey Jan. 16 as it flies toward Ie Shima Training Facility. Sanford honed his skills with the M240G medium machine gun during forward air controller airborne practice at Ie Shima. As a gunner, Sanford is expected to provide suppressive fire in support of ground troops. Sanford is assigned to HMLA-367, currently assigned to VMM-265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU, III MEF.



Capt. Kyle S. Wilt looks over the controls of his UH-1Y Huey during a preflight check Jan. 16 at Kadena Air Base. His mission is to provide close air support for the ground troops. "Our success directly affects them," said Wilt. "This is what we do at our most basic level." Wilt is with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, currently assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

An AH-1W Super Cobra helicopter flies toward Ie Shima Training Facility Jan. 16 before executing forward air controller airborne training. The AH-1W and two other helicopters executed multiple assault formations and attack patterns, attacking various targets on Ie Shima to improve crew proficiency in close air support. The aircraft are with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, currently assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

Helicopter crews put weapon system skills to test

Lance Cpl. Stephen D. Himes

OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

As the aircraft's nose comes down and the occupants feel a moment of weightlessness, the radio screeches to life, "Nose down ... ball ... rocket."

A hollow "thunk" signals a Hellfire missile ejecting from its containing tube, as the rumble of the solid-fuel rocket roars by the door.

Two AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters and a UH-1Y Huey helicopter executed live-fire and simulated-fire attacks in various flight formations Jan. 16 above the Ie Shima Training Facility.

The aircraft and crew are with Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367, currently assigned to Marine Medium Tiltrotor Squadron 265 (Reinforced), 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit, III Marine Expeditionary Force.

The morning flights were simple weapons deployment systems familiarization tests, according to Staff Sgt. Daniel Basan, a crew chief and weapons and tactics instructor with

HMLA-367. The tests allowed the crews to practice remedial actions on the door guns and enabled the pilots to prepare for more advanced flying, which included assault formations and tactical positioning, executed later in the day.

"This first test was just the basics," said Capt. Kyle S. Wilt, a pilot with HMLA-367. "I wanted my copilot to get used to controlling the aircraft during its harsh climbs, dives and turns. Our control of the aircraft directly affects the performance of our crew, and therefore our ability to provide quality air support to the ground troops."

While the pilots familiarized themselves with the weather conditions and flight routes, the crew chiefs for the UH-1Y performed tasks similar to those of the pilots.

"I was pushing them (door gunner crew chiefs) hard," said Basan. "They need to be fully proficient with these weapons. I had them performing random barrel swaps and also ammo can changes after every pass. They need to build the muscle memory for

these simple tasks."

As the sunlight faded, the crew attached night vision devices to their helmets and the helicopters, and with a fresh supply of ammunition they took to the air for more advanced flying.

The night flights were meant to simulate actual combat situations where one aircraft stays out of the attack pattern and directs the rest, according to Wilt. The pilot, known as the forward air controller airborne, is directly responsible for picking targets and relaying the information out to the aircraft in the holding pattern.

With one person controlling the airborne attack, pilots can offer a more concentrated effort to help support the war-fighters on the ground, according to Wilt.

"All of this is for a reason, we aren't just up in the air doing our own thing," said Wilt. "Our main mission is to provide close air support for ground troops, and our success directly affects them. This is what we do at our most basic level."

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Helicopters prepare to lift off after receiving fuel and ammunition Jan. 16 at Kadena Air Base. The morning flights were simple weapons deployment systems familiarization tests, according to Staff Sgt. Daniel Basan, a crew chief and weapons and tactics instructor. The tests allowed the crew to practice its remedial actions on the door guns and enabled the pilots to prepare for the more advanced flying, which includes assault formations and tactical positioning. The aircraft and Marines are with HMLA-367, currently assigned to VMM-265 (Reinforced), 31st MEU, III MEF.

Law enforcement Marines patrol, clear urban terrain

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Matthew Myers
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

“Move up, covering fire!” Orders like these mixed with the rattle of machine-gun fire as Marines with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion took defensive and offensive positions to outmaneuver the simulated enemy machine gunners during military operations on urbanized terrain training Jan. 16 in the Central Training Area.

Marines with the battalion perfected a variety of skill-sets from patrolling to room clearing in preparation for future operations and exercises, as well as increas-

ing overall combat readiness.

“This training is important because we have a lot of different missions as military police,” said Lance Cpl. Spencer Alphonso, a military policeman with 3rd LE Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. “We have a variety of tasks (that range from) humanitarian aid to clearing buildings. This training that we are doing now is vital because it allows us to train for these necessary missions.”

During the training, the Marines also strengthened previously learned skills, allowing them to be efficient warriors in a combat scenario, according to Alphonso.



A Marine with 3rd LE Bn. searches and secures a simulated enemy combatant while another provides security Jan. 16 during MOUT training at Combat Town in the Central Training Area. Marines with the battalion perfected a variety of skill-sets from patrolling to room clearing in preparation for future operations and exercises, as well as increasing their overall combat readiness.



A Marine with 3rd LE Bn. prepares to return fire Jan. 16 during MOUT training in the Central Training Area. During the training event, Marines used simulated rounds to mimic combat operations in a controlled environment.

Throughout the exercise, the Marines of Company B, 3rd LE Bn., acted as an opposing force for Marines with Company A.

To further add to the realism of the scenario, simulated improvised explosive devices were placed around the training area and both combatants fired simulated rounds.

“We picked our approach and set up in the buildings,” said Lance Cpl. Jesse M. Callahan, a military policeman with the battalion. “(The attacking Marines) came through and tried to infiltrate the buildings. (It was our) goal to funnel them in and get them inside a certain building, so we could suppress them and push them back.”

The Marines with Company A completed their training once they had secured their objective and captured or eliminated the mock opposing force.

The MOUT-training scenario

was the culminating event for a series of broader evolutions that took place the week prior, according to Gunnery Sgt. Alexander Orellana, a military policeman with the battalion.

“The company has been conducting this exercise for one week,” said Orellana. “We have had K-9 and our intelligence sections here. LE battalion Marines need to be ready to deploy at a moment’s notice to any situation in the Pacific region (for missions) ranging from humanitarian aid to rebuilding a government’s infrastructure.”

The successful training left the Marines confident in their skills, according to Callahan.

“As military police this training is extremely critical,” said Callahan. “If there is ever a threat on the inside, we are the ones to go in. This training has exceeded all my expectations ... it has been an excellent experience.”



Two Marines with 3rd Law Enforcement Battalion return fire on a hostile building housing a force of simulated enemy opposition Jan. 16 during military operations on urbanized terrain training at Combat Town in the Central Training Area. The green smoke in the background was used so another group of Marines could move to a safe location under concealment. 3rd LE Bn. is part of III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.



Gencho Maeda, right, watches as Sarah E. Tryon swings her mallet Jan. 17 as part of mochitsuki, a New Year tradition in Japan at the Hikarigaoka nursing home in Kin Town. The staff and residents shared this cultural custom with service members of 7th Communication Battalion by teaching them how to pound rice and make mochi as part of the annual Mochitsuki Festival. Tryon is the family readiness officer for 7th Comm. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. Maeda is a resident at Hikarigaoka.

Nursing home residents share New Year mochi tradition

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. Diamond N. Peden
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

In celebration of the New Year on Okinawa, many community members participate in a ceremony called mochitsuki.

Mochitsuki is the act of pounding rice to make mochi, a paste-like food item (often served as a confection). It is believed that eating mochi promotes good health, longevity and prosperity over the course of the New Year.

The Hikarigaoka nursing home staff and residents shared this New Year tradition with service members of 7th Communication Battalion Jan. 17 by teaching them how to pound the rice and form mochi as part of the annual Mochitsuki

Festival Kin Town.

"This is a special event that the Okinawa community members cherish," said U.S. Navy Lt. Stephen F. Brown, the chaplain with the 7th Comm. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF. "They introduced us to this great, sacred tradition that they have each year, and we're honored that they invite us out and (that we) get to be a part of this great event."

During the ceremony, the white, sticky rice is hammered with a mallet until a paste-like consistency is achieved.

The residents, Marines and sailors took turns pounding the rice together in rhythm.

The staff then scooped the pounded rice into a container where it was mixed with white



Rice is pounded into a paste-like consistency as part of an annual Mochitsuki Festival Jan. 17 at the Hikarigaoka nursing home in Kin Town. In the ceremony, a special type of white, sticky sweet rice is hammered with a mallet until the grains turn into paste.

and brown sugar. From there, the residents and service members rolled the mixture into small balls and placed it onto plates with crushed soy beans or a sweetened soy sauce to be drizzled on top and served to everyone.

"Every year, Camp Hansen (Marines) come here," said Fumihiro Imakura, the chief of day service staff at the home. "Every time, there are different people because they have only a year or two on Okinawa. So, we have a relationship with (the battalion) to continue (these) events."

For some of the service members who have volunteered at Hikarigaoka before, the unique events peak their curiosity to go back and learn more about Japanese culture.

"One of the reasons I wanted to come is (because) I came to the Thanksgiving one, and it was a lot of fun," said Pvt. Richard J. Witz, an automotive organizational mechanic with the battalion. "I wanted

to see what type of event this would be considering it was the staff and residents teaching us (their traditions). It makes me want to bring my family out here and show them."

Some service members brought their children, spouses and visiting family members from the U.S. to participate in the experience. As the Marines' children laughed and ran after their parents, the residents watched them fondly.

"(The service members) are like grandchildren to the residents," said Imakura.

The battalion and the residents and staff of Hikarigaoka have been interacting in this fashion for nearly 20 years, participating in cultural activities together such as the Community Festival, Moon-viewing Festival and Thanksgiving and Christmas parties.

"All the staff at Hikarigaoka are very happy to share these cultural events with (the battalion)," said Imakura.



The staff and residents of Hikarigaoka nursing home form a substance known as mochi, with service members of 7th Communication Battalion Jan. 17 in Kin Town. Eating mochi is thought to promote good health, longevity and prosperity over the course of the New Year. The service members are with 7th Comm. Bn., III Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group, III MEF.



Marines with 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion engage silhouette targets with M27 infantry automatic rifles while moving March 25, 2013 at Range 10 near Camp Schwab during weapons familiarization and sustainment training. The Marines also fired the IAR while stationary at both known and unknown target distances. 3rd Recon Bn. is a part of 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. Photo by Cpl. Mark W. Stroud

Recon Marines provide value to ground forces

Cpl. Brandon Suhr
OKINAWA MARINE STAFF

All Marines have been through basic recruit training. After recruit training, some Marines attend the School of Infantry, but only a select few Marines are allowed the opportunity to attend the Basic Reconnaissance Course to become a Recon Marine.

Recon forces are a valuable asset to the Marine Air-Ground Task Force when the Marine Expeditionary Force commander is faced with uncertainty in the battlefield. Reconnaissance provides timely intelligence to command and control for battle space shaping, allowing the MAGTF to act, and react, to changes in the battlefield.

“Our main mission is to go out and provide amphibious and ground reconnaissance wherever needed,” said Sgt. Scott A. Hulsizer, a dive team leader with Company B, 3rd Reconnaissance Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, III Marine Expeditionary Force. “We provide information through observation and other detection methods to provide insight on enemies or potential enemies.”

The basic reconnaissance course is optional to Marines upon completion of SOI.

“This wasn’t something they were told to do,” said Capt. Carlos J. Rincon, a platoon commander with Company B, 3rd Recon Bn. “They wanted to do this, even if they had to take on extra training.”

Recon Marines need to master all their capabilities in order to provide a force of readiness that

can be deployed at a moment’s notice, according to Hulsizer.

“Every one of us wanted a challenge, and we push until the mission is successful,” said Hulsizer. “There’s not one guy here I wouldn’t trust having my back.”

The Marines spend months training together as a team to build camaraderie and achieve mission accomplishment.

“Reconnaissance Marines need extensive training as a team,” said Rincon. “We are a small element. We don’t have the firepower to sustain ourselves against a large force. With that in mind, the Marines need to be able to communicate with each other without saying anything.”

They are a small group of Marines that are trained with specific mission skill-sets in the ability to operate in very adverse situations, according to Gunnery Sgt. Joshua M. Kircher, a reconnaissance man with the battalion.

“I enjoy doing reconnaissance very much,” said Kircher. “I have been in the reconnaissance community for approximately 12 years now. Having ground reconnaissance is still very practical because we can develop the situation through the observation of what is happening on the objectives.”

Even though the Marines’ training is difficult, in the end they agree it was worth it to earn the reconnaissance specialty, according to Hulsizer.

“I love my job,” said Hulsizer. “It can be very tough sometimes, but that is the point of our job. We put the needs of the Marine Corps above our own.”



Reconnaissance Marines execute rappelling and fast-rope techniques at the Jungle Warfare Training Center at Camp Gonsalves July 25, 2012. The Marines are with Force Company, 3rd Recon Bn. Photo by Cpl. Matthew Manning



U.S. Marines with Company A, 3rd Recon Bn., explain the operation of the M203 grenade launcher to Republic of Korea Marines April 11, 2013 in the Republic of Korea during Exercise Ssang Yong 13. Photo by Lance Cpl. Andrew Kuppers

In Theaters Now

JAN. 24-30

FOSTER

TODAY The Nut Job (3-D) (PG), 6 p.m.; Devil's Due (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Nut Job (PG), noon; Ride Along (PG13), 3 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 6 p.m.; Devil's Due (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY The Nut Job (PG), (3-D) 1 & 4 p.m.; Ride Along (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Ride Along (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY Devil's Due (R), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY The Nut Job (PG), 7 p.m.

KADENA

TODAY The Nut Job (PG), noon; Ride Along (PG13), 3 & 6 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 9 p.m.; Ride Along (PG13), 11:30 p.m.
SATURDAY The Nut Job (3-D) (PG), noon; Ride Along (PG13), 3 & 6 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 9 p.m.; Ride Along (PG13), 11:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Nut Job (PG), noon; Ride Along (PG13), 3 & 6 p.m.; Lone Survivor (R), 9 p.m.
MONDAY-THURSDAY Closed

COURTNEY

TODAY The Nut Job (3-D) (PG), 6 p.m.; Devil's Due (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY The Nut Job (PG), 3 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 6 p.m.
SUNDAY The Nut Job (PG), 3 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Devil's Due (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Ride Along (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Closed

FUTENMA

TODAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruits (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Devil's Due (R), 4 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 7 p.m.
SUNDAY Ride Along (PG13), 4 p.m.; The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Devil's Due (R), 6:30 p.m.
TUESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

KINSER

TODAY Devil's Due (R), 6:30 p.m.
SATURDAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 3 p.m.; Devil's Due (R), 6:30 p.m.
SUNDAY The Nut Job (3-D) (PG), 1 p.m.; Ride Along (PG13), 3:30 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 6:30 p.m.
MONDAY-TUESDAY Closed
WEDNESDAY Devil's Due (R), 6:30 p.m.
THURSDAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 6:30 p.m.

SCHWAB

TODAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 6 p.m.; Devil's Due (R), 9 p.m.
SATURDAY Ride Along (PG13), 6 p.m.; Devil's Due (R), 9 p.m.
SUNDAY Ride Along (PG13), 4 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 7 p.m.
MONDAY Devil's Due (R), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY-THURSDAY Closed

HANSEN

TODAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 6:30 p.m.; Devil's Due (R), 10 p.m.
SATURDAY Devil's Due (R), 6 p.m.; Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 9:30 p.m.
SUNDAY Devil's Due (R), 2:30 p.m.; Ride Along (PG13), 6 p.m.
MONDAY Jack Ryan: Shadow Recruit (PG13), 7 p.m.
TUESDAY Ride Along (PG13), 7 p.m.
WEDNESDAY The Legend of Hercules (PG13), 7 p.m.
THURSDAY Devil's Due (R), 7 p.m.

THEATER DIRECTORY

CAMP FOSTER 645-3465
KADENA AIR BASE 634-1869
(USO NIGHT) 632-8781
MCAS FUTENMA 636-3890
(USO NIGHT) 636-2113
CAMP COURTNEY 622-9616
CAMP HANSEN 623-4564
(USO NIGHT) 623-5011
CAMP KINSER 637-2177
CAMP SCHWAB 625-2333
(USO NIGHT) 625-3834

Movie schedule is subject to change without notice. Call in advance to confirm show times. For a complete listing and 3-D availability visit www.shopmyexchange.com.



SINGLE MARINE PROGRAM EVENTS

For more information or to sign up, contact the Single Marine Program at 645-3681.

SOUTHERN HILLS ICE SKATING TRIP

• Spend your afternoon on ice or doing another activity with SMP Feb. 1 at the Southern Hills Sports Complex. A bus will pick up participants at Camp Schwab Semper Fit Gym: 11 a.m.; Camp Hansen Semper Fit Gym: 11:25 a.m.; and Camp Courtney: noon. Sign up with the SMP office by Jan. 29.

FOREST ADVENTURE PARK TRIP

• SMP is hosting a trip to Forest Adventure Park Feb 9. There will be a bus fee of \$10 paid at the SMP office prior to the trip and a 3,000 yen admission fee at the park. Sign up with the SMP office by Feb. 6. For more information, please call the SMP office at the number above.

Mention of any company in this notice does not imply endorsement by the Marine Corps.

TEST YOUR CORPS KNOWLEDGE:

Which core value encompasses the mental, moral and physical strength ingrained in Marines?

See answer in next week's issue

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are green undershirts with unit or deployment graphics authorized for wear with the utility uniform?

ANSWER:

Yes, however, the shirts are not authorized for wear without a blouse per P1020.34G, section 3036.



Japanese phrase of the week:

“Kiotsukete.”

(pronounced: kee-oh-tsu-keh-teh)

It means “Take care.”

CHAPLAINS' ORNER Practice makes perfect



Lt. Todd A. Trumble
 MARINE WING SUPPORT SQUADRON 172 CHAPLAIN

Why do some of us love the frustrating game of golf? I have found that true golfers know that every shot holds a promise; it's a universal language among golfers ... “this could be the one.”

Golfers know intuitively that years of practice could culminate in that one stunning shot.

Golf provides the opportunity to put life on pause, while walking and plotting a course around bunkers, through traps and out of the rough.

I've found that golf is similar to relationships. When you find the harmony of your “swing,” you are able to connect with your partner.

The brilliance of mastering the golf swing is found in its deliberate, tedious practice; it's a grueling individual sport.

Much like relationships, the right connection is found as you spend time on the practice range, learning to master the sophisticated points of the game.

The game of golf is not far removed

from my marriage experience. My wife and I habitually resist the urge to shift blame to the other, i.e., “It's your fault!”

We played the game wrong for years; we even tried to make our own rules. We still have ugly “rounds.”

By focusing less energy on changing each other; and more time on our swing, we have become equal partners.

But there's something I've omitted, until now. We have a third partner in the game of life, God.

He's the silent majority in one sense. He's always there, sometimes playing through; sometimes playing with us and even carrying our bags. He's close enough to do both.

My wife and I have learned the reverberating rule that only strong marriages enjoy ... We voluntarily surrendered the right to play God and change the other person.

So, whether you presently play or not, embrace one guiding rule in life: no one's perfect.

We all need practice. Go to the “range,” and hit some golf balls. At some point, you'll be buying a set of clubs yourself.